

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 AF-06 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 CIEP-01 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 ARA-06 /089 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2631

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: OTELO PRESS CONFERENCE: FOREIGN ASPECTS

SUMMARY: GENERAL OTELO CARVALHO HELD WIDE-RANGING PRESS
CONFERENCE APRIL 28. VIEWS OF OUTSPOKEN MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL WERE CHARACTERISTICALLY PUNGENT AND CONTRADICTORY.
OTELO CLAIMED ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF PORTUGAL BY WESTERN EUROPE
AND U.S. WAS REAL, BUT OFFERED NO PROOF. U.S. MILITARY
INTERVENTION IN PORTUGAL WAS OUT OF QUESTION, ACCORDING TO
OTELO, BUT CIA ACTIVITY POSSIBLE. AMB. CARLUCCI OK. ASKED
WHETHER CUNHAL'S PRESENCE IN GOP WAS NOT A PROBLEM FOR NATO,
OTELO STRESSED THAT NATO HAD NOT PRESSURED, NOR SOUGHT TO
IMPOSE ITS VIEWS ON PORTUGAL. REPEATED AFM'S PLEDGE TO
RESPECT FOREIGN COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING NATO MEMBERSHIP.
IN JOCLAR VEIN, OTELO SAID PORTUGAL WAS MORE SECURE AS
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A MEMBER OF NATO, LINKING MEMBERSHIP WITH PREVIOUS ANSWER

ON U.S. NON-INTERVENTION--TO LAUGHTER OF AUDIENCE. I RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN NOT VOLUNTEER A COMMENT RE "BOYCOT" MONDAY, BUT DENY ALLEGATION IF ASKED. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL OTELO CARVALHO HELD LENGTHY, WIDE-RANGING PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOREIGN AND PORTUGUESE JOURNALISTS APRIL 28. VIEWS OF OUTSPOKEN MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND DEPUTY COMMANDER OF COPCON WERE CHARACTERISTICALLY PUNGENT AND CONTRADICTORY. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF OTELO'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

2. AZORES NEGOTIATIONS" QUERIED BY A SPANISH JOURNALIST ABOUT AMB. MCCLOSKEY'S "IMPATIENCE" TO MOVE AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD AND NEED FOR SOME SORT OF JOINT IBERIAN STAND, OTELO DID NOT ANSWER AT ALL. REFERRED INSTEAD TO PORTUGAL'S DESIRE FOR TRUE INDEPENDENCE, DESIRE TO BE FREE FROM BLOCS, EAST OR WEST. OTELO SAID PORTUGAL WAS SUFFERING FROM REAL ECONOMY BOYCOTT AT HANDS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND U.S. (FOLLOW-UP QUESTION BY NYTIMES ASKED FOR PROOF OF ALLEGED BOYCOTT. OTELO BACKED OFF, SAID HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO GIVE OUT SUCH DATA, BUT CLAIMED THAT PROOF EXISTS.)

3. AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI: HOW IS AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI ACTING? WHAT ABOUT CIA IN PORTUGAL? AFTER RECOUNTING AT LENGTH HIS STATEMENT OF MARCH 11, OTELO SAID CARLUCCI HAD GIVEN A FAVORABLE SPEECH AND ENLIGHTENING PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT PORTUGAL, THAT SECRETARY HAD SAID CARLUCCI WASN'T HARD ENOUGH. THRUST OF OTELO'S ANSWER WAS THAT AMBASSADOR WAS O.K. OTELO SAID THERE WAS NOTHING CONCRETE, NO HARD DATA ON CIA ACTIVITIES IN PORTUGAL.

4. U.S. INTERVENTION: ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF U.S. INTERVENTION, OTELO LAUGHED OFF QUESTION AND SAID MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS "OUT OF THE QUESTION." ADDED THAT "OUR YANKEE FRIENDS ARE TRANQUIL WITH RESULTS OF ELECTIONS." CONTINUING, HE SAID THAT WHILE MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS NOT EVEN HYPOTHETICAL, THERE WAS ECONOMIC PRESSURE. ALSO SAID VAGUELY CIA WAS "SUPERPOWER" AND THERE WAS MINIMAL CHANCE OF SOMETHING IN THAT AREA.

5. NATO: QUERIED BY A VENEZUELAN ABOUT THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINTAINING NATO MEMBERSHIP WITH A COMMUNIST MINISTER IN THE GOP, OTELO SAID FIRST OF ALL IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER DR. CUNHAL WOULD REMAIN A MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. IF HE CHOSE TO TAKE UP HIS SEAT IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HE WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN FROM GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS UP TO THE PARTY AND "COMRADE ALVARO", SAID OTELO IN DERISIVE TONE THAT DREW LAUGHTER FROM JOURNALISTS. AS FAR AS NATO WAS CONCERNED, OTELO ACKNOWLEDGED THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH ALLIANCE SECRETS AND RESTATED STANDARD AFM LINE RE FIDELITY

TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. OTELO NOTED APPROVINGLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PRESSURE FROM NATO, NO IMPOSITIONS ON PORTUGAL. GRINNING BROADLY HE SAID THAT PORTUGAL WAS MORE SECURE AS A MEMBER OF NATO--AFTER ALL, HE SAID, I ALREADY MENTIONED THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT INTERVENE MILITARILY IN PORTUGAL (MORE LAUGHTER IN HALL).

6. ACTION REQUESTED: BELIEVE THAT OTELO'S ALLEGATION RE ECONOMIC BOYCOTT BY EUROPEANS AND U.S. WILL BE MAIN LEAD FROM THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. IT MAY COME UP TODAY'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING BY DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN. IF ASKED SPOKESMAN SHOULD DENY ALLEGATION BUT OTHER WISE I RECOMMEND WE NOT VOLUNTEER AN ANSWER TODAY. CHARGE SHOULD BE ANSWERED IN DETAIL WITH SUPPORTING DATA AT TIME AND PLACE OF OUR CHOOSING. HIS OTHER COMMENTS, ON WHOLE, WERE NOT TOO BAD FOR OTELO AND I THINK WE OUGHT TO AVOID A PUBLIC DEBATE WITH HIM.
CARLUCCI

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